

PART FIVE: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

SUMMARY OF PLANNING

This plan was prepared through a process of continuous consultation with Acadia National Park and other National Park Service staff, and with a large number of stakeholders including governmental bodies, educational and cultural organizations, businesses, elected officials, and individual members of the public.

Planning began in 1999 when Superintendent Paul Haertel was first informed that Naval Security Group Activity Winter Harbor, was slated to cease operation by July 2002. He sought help from the NPS Northeast Region, and Sarah Peskin, Chief Planner for New England, and John Kelly, Outdoor Recreation Planner, were assigned. Together they and others participated in a series of public forums and quarterly coordinating meetings hosted by three successive commanding officers of NSGA to plan for an orderly transition of management from the U.S. Navy. Because only part of the base would legally revert back to NPS, key stakeholders included the towns of Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro, the Maine congressional delegation, the State of Maine, and a large number of individuals and organizations with responsibilities and concerns about the loss of an important employer and historic presence in this rural area.

Quarterly transition meetings were held from 2000 until 2002 to coordinate matters such as land and property disposition, environmental surveys, sharing of resource data, reuse opportunities, and other issues involving multiple entities. Responsible officials from local, state, and federal agencies, and representatives of the Congressional delegation participated in each of these meetings. Each meeting had a public component allowing interested people to get current status reports, and have their questions addressed. These meetings were well attended and covered by local weekly and daily newspapers. Acadia National Park managers and Schoodic planning team leaders attended regularly and participated in all the public forums.

At these meetings, the planning team explained how the NPS process fit into overall efforts to prepare for the departure of the Navy. The Schoodic planning team prepared a background document titled *Schoodic Point Navy Base Reuse: Site Orientation and Overview* in 2001 with maps, photographs, and other information about the Schoodic District. Also included was a statement of guiding principles and goals on which planning would be based.

Following the U.S. Navy's departure, the Schoodic planning team continued to brief the State of Maine and local communities on the planning process and to seek their input on a formal and informal basis. These consultations included ongoing coordination with the Maine State Planning Office, NPS participation in the Maine Rural Development Council's Schoodic area workshop in March 2001, and a meeting with the Schoodic Area League of Towns (SALT) in February 2002. SALT includes the towns of Franklin, Gouldsboro, Sorrento, Steuben, Sullivan, and Winter Harbor. The Schoodic planning team also met regularly with Schoodic AreaFutures, a nonprofit organization that formed in 1999 to provide a forum for discussion and promote ideas about the ways the local communities can address change on the Schoodic Peninsula.

Since February 2001, the Schoodic planning team has briefed the park's Advisory Commission on the status of the general management plan at nine of its regular meetings. The 16-member Advisory Commission is the park's Congressionally authorized citizen advisory group representing the State of Maine, local towns, and the public at large. All Advisory Commission meetings are open to the public. In addition to completing consultations on the *Draft General Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (DGMPA/EIS)*, the Schoodic planning team has worked continuously and cooperatively with the local communities on the development of the Schoodic National Scenic Byway, expansion of the Island Explorer shuttle bus to Schoodic, and preparation of a comprehensive plan for the

Town of Winter Harbor. These efforts relate directly to the use and development of the Schoodic District.

The team conducted two formal public meetings at Sullivan High School in 2000 and 2002 to provide information about the planning process and to seek public comment. A mailing list was developed and attendees were invited to mail back suggestions and remain on the list for future updates. A newsletter was published in 2001 with background information and preliminary concepts for further discussion and analysis. In 2001, John Kelly moved to Acadia National Park as the Park Planner to provide local coordination and support for the planning process. Throughout the course of the project, key documents were posted on the Acadia National Park website where they remain for reference. These publications may be found at: www.nps.gov/acad/schoodic/home.htm

The Schoodic planning team is sensitive to tribal interest in the proper stewardship of resources on the peninsula. The five federally recognized tribes in Maine have been and will continue to be consulted in conjunction with the preparation of the *DGMPA/EIS* for the Schoodic District. Consultations with the Maine tribes were initiated at a meeting in February 2002. The tribal leaders and park staff agreed that there was strong potential for a partnership at the proposed Schoodic Education and Research Center. Tribal members expressed interest in utilizing the facilities for tribal meetings or activities that educate the public on Wabanaki culture. A second meeting at Schoodic took place with tribal leaders in July 2002. The leaders had an opportunity to tour the base and visit a number of the buildings and facilities. Again, there was strong interest on the part of the leaders present to think of ways that the tribes could utilize the facilities as a gathering place and to hold programs to teach the public about the Wabanaki people. The most recent tribal meeting was held in December 2002, and was hosted by the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. Participants were brought up to date on the ongoing planning efforts for the Schoodic District and their input was sought.

Consultation with the Maine State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has been ongoing during research for and preparation of National Register nominations for the Schoodic Peninsula District and the Rockefeller Building. On March 28, 2002 the *DGMPA/EIS* was discussed as part of an overall review meeting. Further consultation will take place during review of the *DGMPA/EIS*.

An open house was held at Schoodic in October 2002 so that interested parties could tour the former navy base site that had not been open to the public while an active military installation. Throughout the planning process, articles have appeared in publications and on websites of the Friends of Acadia, and National Parks Conservation Association. These two large membership organizations have helped NPS stay in touch with members of the public beyond those who live year round in the immediate vicinity of Schoodic. Local press coverage and the Friends of Schoodic website have kept neighbors and others informed.

A public meeting will be held while the *DGMPA/EIS* is on review and the draft will be distributed and posted on the website. Comments will be addressed as decisions are made and the amendment is made final.

LIST OF DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT RECIPIENTS

Federal Agencies

Acadia National Park Advisory Commission
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment
Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
 Northeast Region
 Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge
Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, First District
Department of the Navy:
 Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northern Division
 Naval Satellite Operations Center, Detachment Alpha
 Naval Security Group Command
Department of Transportation:
 Federal Highway Administration, Maine Division
 Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
General Services Administration, New England Region

Indian Tribes

Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Passamaquoddy Tribe:
 Indian Township Reservation
 Pleasant Point Reservation
Penobscot Indian Nation

State Agencies

Department of Conservation
Department of Economic and Community Development
Department of Education
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Department of Labor
Department of Marine Resources
Department of Transportation, Office of Passenger Transportation
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
Maine Rural Development Council
Office of Tourism
State Planning Office
University of Maine:
 College of Education
 College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
 Cooperative Extension

Lobster Institute
Maine Sea Grant
School of Marine Sciences (Darling Marine Center)
Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research

Local Agencies

School Union 92
School Union 93
School Union 96
School Union 98
Town of Bar Harbor
Town of Cranberry Isles
Town of Franklin
Town of Frenchboro
Town of Gouldsboro
Town of Isle au Haut
Town of Mount Desert
Town of Sorrento
Town of Southwest Harbor
Town of Steuben
Town of Sullivan
Town of Swans Island
Town of Tremont
Town of Trenton
Town of Winter Harbor

Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Susan Collins
U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe
U.S. Representative Tom Allen (1st District)
U.S. Representative Michael H. Michaud (2nd District)
Governor John E. Baldacci
State Senator Dennis Damon (Senate District 5)
State Senator Christine R. Savage (Senate District 12)
State Senator Kevin L. Shorey (Senate District 4)
State Representative Leonard Earl Bierman (House District 132)
State Representative Edward R. Dugay (House District 131)
State Representative Theodore Koffman (House District 130)
State Representative Hannah Pingree (House District 129)
Hancock County Commissioner Fay A. Lawson (District 3)

Organizations

Abbe Museum
Acadia Corporation
Appalachian Mountain Club
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Carriages in the Park, Inc.
Coastal Acadia Development Corporation
College of the Atlantic
Conservation Education Foundation of Maine
Down East Resource Conservation and Development Council
Downeast and Acadia Regional Tourism

Downeast Transportation Inc.
 Eastern Maine Development Corporation
 Eastern National
 Frenchmen Bay Conservancy
 Friends of Acadia
 Friends of Schoodic
 Gouldsboro Historical Society
 Hancock County Planning Commission
 Humboldt Field Research Institute
 Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors
 Maine Audubon Society
 Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 Maine Community Development Association
 Maine Community Foundation
 Maine Environmental Education Association
 Maine Environmental Research Institute
 Maine Science and Technology Foundation
 Maine Sierra Club
 Maine Tourism Association
 Marine Environmental Research Institute
 Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory
 National Park Tours
 National Parks Conservation Association
 Natural Resources Council of Maine
 Oli's Trolley
 Schoodic Area Futures
 Schoodic Arts for All
 Schoodic Healthy Communities
 Schoodic Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
 Schoodic Scenic Byway Committee
 The Island Institute
 The Jackson Laboratory
 The Nature Conservancy
 U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association
 Winter Harbor Historical Society

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